



## Santa delivers at the Divi to the Clown Doctors of Aruba

Thursday night the Divi Mega-All Inclusive Resort was host to the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas party of over 120 regular guests that vacation at the resort annually with Dianne and John O'Sullivan, owners of "O'Sullivan Travel" of City Island, New York.

Dianne and John have been bringing groups to Aruba for 21 consecutive years, the last 18 at the Divi, which they declare to be their favorite resort on the island, where they really feel that they are "part of a family." Their "Christmas Party in Aruba" vacation has become an after-Thanksgiving tradition for many, and each year the number of vacationers joining them has grown.

Two years ago, Dianne decided to forego the usual "Christmas Grab bag" that accompanied the annual celebration in favor of collecting toys from all the people to be donated to a local children's charity. The beneficiaries of their generosity were the children of Casa Cuna Progreso in Pos Chicquito, a home for young children ages infant to 4 years old.

This year, Dianne and her group decided to donate toys to the Clown Doctors, a group that visits children in the hospital, bringing games and entertainment, and easing their fears of what can often be a forbidding place for a young child. Founder of the Clown Doctors, Peter Balliere, along with Clown Dr. "Piaso Mea Largo" (Clown Long Stockings) Mary-Ann were very grateful to accept the sack full of gifts from Santa himself on behalf of the foundation.

Dianne O'Sullivan explained that for her, giving back to the island that has brought her and her group so many wonderful memories is a gift of love, and her gift to the Clown Doctors is very close to her heart. Dianne is the mother of Brian O'Sullivan, the thirty-year-old man that just broke the world marathon record for an above-the-knee amputee while running the New York City Marathon. Brian was born with a handicap, and had to spend a great deal of his childhood in hospitals, so Dianne can truly appreciate the important work of the Clown Doctors.

"This is the second time we have done this, and it has been a banner day for us," expressed Dianne, "twenty of our group just received recognition from the Aruba Tourism Authority as Distinguished Visitors, and my husband and I were named "Ambassadors of Goodwill" by the government Aruba. We truly love the island, and look forward to our annual visit, in fact, six years ago, we also began an August tour to the island, and that is growing in popularity as well. This "after-Thanksgiving trip" is very special to us, as so many look forward to the party, and love donating the gifts. They return home with a real feeling of the Christmas spirit each year."

The very special Christmas party at the Divi begins with a cocktail hour around the pool, and then a special holiday dinner in the Red Parrot Restaurant at the resort afterwards. Santa is always seen around the pool with his many helpers, spreading holiday cheer. This year, with their donation to the Clown Doctors, they know that it will be a very special Christmas for the children of Aruba that will have to be hospitalized during the holiday. The staff of THE NEWS extends a heartfelt thanks to Dianne and her group for their generosity and thoughtfulness to the island's children, and look forward to welcoming them back to Aruba soon!